CHANGE AT THE TOP FOR SHEEPY SCHOOL

After 15 years at the school, Charlotte Ward Lewis has stepped down as Head Teacher at Sheepy Church of England Primary School (details page 17). Here is a selection of photos from her time at Sheepy. Also Page 17—a prayer read at Mrs Ward Lewis’ leaving assembly; and Back Cover—a selection of drawings made for her by the children.

Above: Foundation governors Sue Houghton Avril Wilkins & Revd Julia Hargreaves with Charlotte (2nd from left).
Church Services—March 2017

(All service details are also on the Benefice website – www.sheepybenefice.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 01 March</td>
<td>07:30pm</td>
<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Thursday 02 March</td>
<td>09:00am</td>
<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
<td>Communion</td>
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<td>Sunday 05 March</td>
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<td>Orton on the</td>
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<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Hill</td>
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<td>Thursday 09 March</td>
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<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
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<td>Sunday 12 March</td>
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<td>Sibson</td>
<td>Common Worship Communion</td>
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<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
<td>Family Service</td>
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<td>Thursday 16 March</td>
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<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
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<td>Sunday 19 March</td>
<td>09:30am</td>
<td>Twycross</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>Thursday 30 March</td>
<td>09:00am</td>
<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
<td>Communion</td>
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2017 Lent Gatherings

Remaining with the Pilgrim course material, this year in the 'Grow' stage [so we're progressing!], we shall be looking at 'The Eucharist'. ALL welcome to one or more sessions...just join us when you can.

All Wednesdays: 8, 15, 22, 29 March, 5, 12 April
All Saints Church, Sheepy, 7.30pm

Revd Julia

Confirmation

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptized and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship.

This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power, through the Holy Spirit, to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.

The Bishop of Leicester has released dates for our Deanery Confirmation service, and it is to be at

Holy Trinity Church, Hinckley on Sunday 11 June [evening]

Confirmations ... if you would like to be confirmed, or wish to explore this further, please speak with Revd. Julia.
We end the month transformed, or transfigured, on the mountaintop where Peter, James, John, Moses and Elijah are all illuminated by the glory of God, as revealed in the Son in whom God is well pleased.

As we unite with others around the world to tackle violence and build peace, and as we lift our voices in unity to call on banks to use our money for good rather than fuel climate change, may we know the transfiguring, and unifying, presence of God’s glory among us.

Reflection is written by Tim Presswood.
Tim is Transitional Regional Minister for the North Western Baptist Association.

Every Blessing
Revd. Julia

The 1928 Diary of Revd. William George Southwell MA.
Rector of Sheepy & Ratcliffe 1888 -1929
Extracts from the diary.... throughout the year

Wednesday 21st March 1928
Easterly wind, a lot of rain in the night, dull and cloudy
I buried George Charles Eyden, age 82 at 3pm
I sent off to the Diocesan Surveyor the Builders’ receipt
for £137.15.5
This concludes repairs on Rectory, Hall Farm, Cool Hill, and Ratcliffe Glebe.
Paid Mary Tonks 5s for Washing

Monday 26th March 1928
Wind NW & SW. beautiful day
Confirmation at Twycross 3pm.
All my candidates were there [10] ten given in school.
The Bishop was very friendly with me.
7pm took chair of a meeting of school managers for this district.
About 30 persons present.
The Director of Education outlined a scheme for a central school.
Wood of Witherley presented his scheme.
Others spoke. There was a discussion of some use..
No resolution was attempted.
A most surprising note of thanks was given me as chairman and loud clapping of hands,
Briggs had supper here.
Greetings from sunny Sibson, where the snowdrops are putting on a pretty display and showing off our new driveway. In this month’s view from the pew our “Junior Church Warden” Josh Melen (nothing like keeping it in the family!) reveals some interesting facts about the patron saint of our church.

Do please come and visit us for a warm Sibson welcome at our service, held on the second Sunday of every month—there’s usually cake or, if you’re really lucky, Liz Farmer’s homemade biscuits!

Alison Melen, Church Warden, Sibson

St Botolph: A Short History

St Botolph's church has been present (albeit in one form or another) on the site it currently occupies in our village since the 12th century, and has seen the entirety of Sibson’s surprisingly diverse history from highwaymen (Dick Turpin’s sleepover in the Cock Inn) to regicide (Peter Temple, born in Sibson c1599 and imprisoned for his part in the execution of Charles I) unfold. This is all very well and good, but to parishioners of Sibson, the question always arises—who in fact was St Botolph?

While there are several conflicting accounts detailing the Saint’s origins and how he came to receive his Canonisation, what most sources agree on is that Botolph was one of the earliest, if not the first, great East Anglian Saint, having lived in the 7th century AD.

Botolph was educated as a Catholic in France, and after this he returned to East Anglia to preach. King Anna of East Anglia (King of the east Angles, sometimes spelt Onna, who ruled from the early 640s until his death in battle in 653 AD) gave Botolph a piece of land on which to build a monastery in Boston (“BOtolph’S TOWN”—makes sense now!) as a result of his action against “devils of the swamps” surrounding the area. The marshland in the area emitted luminous gases at night, Botolph had the land drained and consequently the gases or “swamp devils” disappeared, hence his fame in the area. St Botolph was buried in his monastery but, when the monastery was ransacked by Danish invaders, King Edgar had the remains of the Saint split into three parts: some to Ely, some to Thorney and some to Westminster Abbey.

So what relevance does this have to Sibson church? Well, there are in fact over 70 churches (as well as 5 villages) that are named after the Saint in the UK, many of them being named in honour of him due to the Saint's remains being brought through the area en route to their final resting place. This is perhaps why St Botolph became the “Patron Saint of Wayfarers”, and why his reputation increased more after his death, spreading to churches like Sibson who honoured the Saint by dedicating their church to him. This then answers the question, “who was St Botolph?”—the individual who contributed to the foundation of Boston and, through his legacy as a Saint, influenced as far as our village of Sibson.

Joshua Melen, Junior Churchwarden, Sibson

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story booklet in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from its sales.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 but at first all the supermarkets turned it down. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders and fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to begin making The Real Easter Egg. To date, more than one million eggs have been sold, with 750,000 of these sent directly to churches and schools.

This success has meant the production of Fairtrade chocolate has moved to the UK and over £250,000 has been donated to charity.

Where to buy

You can buy the blue Original egg from Tesco, Waitrose, or Morrisons. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stock.

See the full range or order online at: www.realeastereggs.co.uk
Orton News

Spring 60 Minute Makeover

If you’ve seen the TV programme, you know how this works. We need an army of people, young and older, male and female, to give up an hour of their time on Saturday 1 April (this is not an April Fool joke!) from 10-11am, to help spring-clean the church, both inside and out. Bring your dusters and strimmers and help us spruce up our lovely community church and churchyard—it will be fun!!

AGM of Orton DCC

This will be held on Monday 3 April at 7.30pm in church.

Everyone is welcome to come along and inspect our annual accounts and maybe you will be inspired to join us—please note that no-shows among current members will be co-opted for another year!

News from Twycross Parish Council
(Affecting Orton & Twycross)

a) Play Areas—we have appointed Leicestershire CC to maintain the play areas and the “Green” in Orton on the Hill in the coming year. Following last year’s problems we decided to appoint an experienced contractor who should be able to provide a much better service. The purchase of the Twycross play area from the Crown Estate is proceeding, to ensure it remains available for unrestricted public use.

b) Budget 2017/18—just over £16,000 agreed. This will allow us to maintain the play areas from March to October; provide a grant to our three churches towards their grounds maintenance costs; and continue to employ our excellent clerk. Most households will pay around £1 a week or less for our parish council services.

c) Phone Boxes—our iconic phone boxes in Norton and Orton have been cleaned and painted. We’ve asked BT not to remove the payphone in Twycross.

d) High Speed Two (HS2)—shortly before Christmas the government announced its preferred route for HS2. It is now slightly closer to our villages, but it still seems unlikely that noise from the rail line will be a problem if it is built. We will work with others to minimise any problems for local residents during the construction period. You can comment on the proposals at www.gov.uk/hs2 Comments must be submitted by 9th March 2017.

e) Changes in local hospital and health services—“Sustainability and transformation plans” produced by 44 NHS areas in England could affect local hospital 7 health services. To be discussed at our March meeting. There are more details online.

f) Planning—we continue to comment on major planning issues. Before Christmas, we objected to an application for 3 new houses in Wood Lane. I am pleased to report that the planning inspectorate has now upheld Hinckley and Bosworth’s decision to refuse the application.

We thank our local Councillors Ivan Ould and Kevin Morrell, together with our MP David Tredinnick, for their help on local issues. Parish Council meetings are held every 2 months and are open to everyone. Details of the meetings are on the parish council’s website: http://www.parish-council.com/Twycross

Alan Davies, Parish Councillor for Norton Juxta Twycross: Cock Lane, 01827 880277
Mrs C A Parkes  
MCSP SRP  
Chartered Physiotherapist  
Member of Health Professions Council  
Orton House Physiotherapy  
Orton House Farm  
Orton on the Hill CV9 3NR  
Mobile: 0789 996 6214  
Telephone: 01827 880238  
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Tues–Fri 12–2:30pm & 5–11pm  
Saturday 12 noon–11pm  
Sunday 12 noon–8pm  
Lunch: Tues–Fri 12–2, Sat 12–3  
Traditional Sun Lunch 12–3:30  
Evening meals Weds–Sat 6–9
Ratcliffe Culey News

RATCLIFFE FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The AGM will be held on Wednesday 1st March at 7.30 pm at 11 Main Rd.
We are looking forward to planning an interesting programme for the forthcoming year.
New members would be very welcome, please ring Juliet on 01827 713766.

CHURCHYARD
In spite of the grey and dreary weather there is a brave display of snowdrops (“fair maids of February”) in the corner of the churchyard nearest to Manor Farm.
These were customarily used to celebrate the Feast of Candlemas on 2 February.

FUTURE EVENTS

COFFEE MORNING
This will be held on Wednesday 15 March, 10 am to 12 noon in the church room

QUIZ NIGHT
This will take place on Friday 28 April at 7:30 pm in the church room. The usual format: a maximum of 4 per table at £2.50 per head; refreshments will be provided but please bring your own drinks.

ELECTORAL ROLL
The church Electoral Roll is now due for its annual update. New forms to apply for inclusion on the revised roll will be available. Anyone wishing to join the roll should request an application form from Richard Jones (01827 713766).

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
This will take place on Thursday 16 March at 7:30 pm in the Church Room. Everyone is welcome to attend. The accounts and church reports will be presented and wardens and committee members elected.

LANE SETTING
This will be on the evening of 20 April at The Gate.

NEXT SERVICES
Sunday 26 February, Holy Communion 10am
Mothering Sunday 26 March, Holly Communion 10am

Shenton News

Candlemas this year was celebrated at Shenton Church in a service led by Rev Julia Hargreaves.
Some members of the choir also came along and it was lovely to have a choir again in our church. The service was very well attended and it was lovely to hear from one or two of the congregation that they had not been before to this beautiful church but would certainly come again. Our next service will be at Easter and we normally have a very good turn out. If you have not been to a service at Shenton why not come along. It’s a beautiful building and a lovely place to worship.

In a couple of months time we hope to start work on a major renovation project which will remedy problems with the roof to the tower and the rainwater goods. Also, additional work to the tower stonework is necessary but once this has been done the main problems facing the structure of the building will have been remedied. This has been some years in the planning and so it will be great to actually start the project. Tenders for the work have been received and the main contractor will be appointed soon.

Charles Wollaston, Churchwarden Shenton

ITEMS FROM WITHERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES:

- A farm in Ratcliffe Culey has had batteries stolen.
- 2 white transit type vans are travelling the area’s farms and villages in a suspicious way, anyone who sees registration numbers YR51LHO and ?NO7JKF (the first letter is not known) should report them to the police.
- Accessibility of T34 Footpath, petition circulated to ascertain local opinion. Survey completed. Due process to be followed.
- Sketchley Lane traffic calming issue in hand with Traffic and Signals Manager, LCC Highways.
- Way-marker for church ordered, to be housed on lamp post 6.
- Vehicle Activated Speed machine faulty, to be returned for repair.
Sheepy Local History Society

At February’s meeting, a short film made in 1943 was shown, entitled “Power on the Land”, demonstrating how advances in technology & machinery helped modernise agriculture. This was followed by slideshows & discussions on the probable floor layouts of 32-36 Ratcliffe Lane from the late 16th century to 20th century & the table setting/menu for George IV’s coronation in 1821.

Items on display included: 1728 Will of John Clark of Little Sheepy; original Minton Tile dated 1850 from the church; December 1914 Illustrated War News; 1948 original wayleave agreement at Sheepy School; 1917 & 1930s original postcards; 1965 article featuring M Davies MBE of Ratcliffe & H Greenfield of Harris Bridge; etc.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm at Sheepy Memorial Hall. Next cataloguing/research session is on Monday 27th March, 10am to 12 noon in the Heritage Room at the Memorial Hall.

Details of the content of the monthly meetings appear on Sheepy Parish Council website or the History Society’s facebook page nearer the time or you can be added to our mailing list to receive details. Contact: Lynne Percival 01827 880721 or sheepyhistory@btinternet.com

Sheepy Village Sale

Sheepy Village Sale is returning

Bank Holiday Monday 1 May
10am-2pm

In brief, if you have something to sell: furniture, toys, bric a brac, why not set up a stall on your drive, in your garage or garden, or even rent a table in Sheepy Memorial Hall?

Also new this year “Spot the Sheep Trail”
It only costs £10 to register.

All proceeds in aid of Sheepy Memorial Hall
A village map will be provided for the event with your sale listed. Each house in Sheepy Magna & Sheepy Parva will soon receive more information including a registration form.

For more information contact:
Janet on 01827 881142 or
Kate on 07712 421 832
Sheepy News

Thanks To The Bellringers
Services at All Saints, Sheepy, are announced by a hard-working band of bellringers who perform every Sunday. One member of the congregation even stopped halfway up the path to record the bells on his phone. Now there’s a ring tone to be proud of! Practice night is Monday at 7:30pm. Pop in and watch. Have a go and learn a new skill.

Mothers’ Union
2 March, 2pm at the home of Mrs Gillian Greenwood. Our speaker will be Rev. Pam Harvey. We will also be having our usual bring and buy stall.

Open House
20 March, 1pm. Our annual Soup and Bread lunch. Please note change of time. It will be held at the home of Mrs Jean Negus, Moat House, Sheepy Parva. The cost will be £3.50 and all the proceeds go to Tear Fund.

Tuesday Church
Tuesday Church is an informal service with music, a story and a craft activity. It is held on the second Tuesday of the month, at 1:30pm in Sheepy Church.

Reception children from Sheepy Primary School attend, but this service is open to all pre-school children and their carers. The next service is on Tuesday 14 March. If you care for a young child, why not come along and have some fun? All helpers are fully DBS checked.

Open the Book
Open the Book is a series of Bible stories presented weekly by small teams to the children of Sheepy Primary School. There are ten volunteers who take part, which means that we are only committed to two or three times each half term. We usually meet in Church on a Monday morning to rehearse, and then “perform” in school on Wednesday morning. Each session takes about half an hour. If you would like to be involved in this rewarding experience please contact Revd. Julia Hargreaves or Sue Houghton on 01827 880517. All volunteers are fully DBS checked.

Meetings To Remember
We are entering the season of Annual Church Meetings (ACMs). Like AGMs but for the church. Each church has its own ACM when the District Church Council will report and Sheepy’s ACM is on Thursday 9 March in Church at 7.30pm.

Then the whole Sheepy Benefice has an ACM on Monday 24 April in Orton Church when the Parochial Church Council will make its report.

These are public meetings and everybody is welcome to attend.

Sheepy Magna Ladies’ Group
SUBS STAY AT £12 FOR ANOTHER YEAR!!
Have you ever thought about joining a group, but are put off by high subscriptions when you are not able to make every meeting? Sheepy Ladies’ Group is keeping subscriptions to £12 for another year. We also try to use local speakers; it’s amazing how many talented people live in our midst! So, come along, give us a try and see what you think. We offer a wide range of different speakers, trips out, evenings at the theatre and delicious suppers. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 March, which is our AGM.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30pm, in Sheepy Memorial Hall. New members and visitors are always welcome, as are ideas for speakers. For more information about forthcoming events or the group in general, call Sue on 01827 880517 or Pat on 01827 880627.

Sheepy WI
At our last monthly meeting, Sheepy WI were taught some of the basics of Tai Chi by Maureen Parker of De Ville’s Studio in Long Street, Atherstone. Tai Chi combines deep breathing and relaxation with slow and gentle movements. If this event sounds interesting we’d love you to come and join us. We meet at Sheepy Memorial Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. The next meeting is 28 March 2017 when we will be learning how to make sausages with Matt from Bates Butchers in Atherstone. If you need further details please contact Juliet on 07553 055787

Sheepy WI also invite you to a Fundraising Fashion Show & Shopping Event, favourite brands up to 75% off, sizes 6-30—Mon 3 April, Red Lion, Atherstone, 7:30pm start. Tickets £2.50 call 07932 615233

Dates to Save:
Sheepy Village Sale
This is back again this year and will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 1 May, 10am–2pm—details page 8.

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May
No envelope collection in Sheepy, but a Soup & Bread Lunch on Sat 20 May, 12–2pm, all welcome, donations to support Christian Aid’s charity work.

(Sheepy Local History Society—p8)
(Future of No7 Bus—p11)
(Good Neighbour Scheme—p11)
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01827 768821 [In the Market Square]
Community News

Can You Help Sheepy Magna’s Good Neighbour Scheme?

What is a good neighbour scheme?
The Rural Community Council (RCC) in Leics and Rutland is initiating the Good Neighbour Scheme, a community project led by volunteers who give their time to their neighbours who could do with a bit of help with a certain task.

We Are Looking for Volunteers Who Are Interested in Joining Sheepy’s Good Neighbour Volunteer Army

How does it work?
A neighbour in need of help contacts the scheme and is then teamed with a volunteer happy to help who is suitable for that particular task. Tasks for example include befriending, taking to local appointments, gardening, dog walking, odd jobs, to name a few.

Help can only be given if help is offered
Please, please consider supporting your neighbours, one day someone you know may need help!

For more information or to offer your services please ring Janet Kavanagh for more details on 01827881142. THANKYOU

Scams and Crimes

More warnings, from Action Fraud, Neighbourhood Alert, the Police and elsewhere, of potential scams etc. to be aware of (continued next column)

- If you live near to a church or school, Leicestershire Police is asking you to be their eyes and ears and to report suspicious behaviour. Metals, such as lead and copper, remain very attractive to thieves, who often target roofs of churches and schools and remove materials worth several thousand pounds.

Inspector Gavin Drummond said:

- “Metal theft affects the heart of our communities and I’m asking everyone to be more vigilant and to help us prevent it from happening.

- “Please report any suspicious behaviour or unplanned activity that you find out about at your church or school, so that we can then check that this activity is genuine. Activity may include building work, workmen in hi-vis jackets or vans and trucks being loaded with metal, particularly if it is in a remote location or where buildings are hidden away.”

The Future of the No 7 Bus (Affects Twycross & Sheepy)

The No 7 bus is one of four routes supported by the County Council and run by community bus partnerships. They will be reviewed at the end of March 2018 and decisions will be made about their future.

Unlike the other routes, the No 7 route was halved in length to save money which has inconvenienced many users especially at the Northern end. However, the route is now less circuitous and the time table easy to remember. It also offers a service earlier and later in the day.

The bus partnership hoped that the altered service would be used for those without their own transport to get to work or to use the leisure facilities at Atherstone or Measham.

The bus provides a link for many people for shopping, socialising and accessing other vital services including the main line railway at Atherstone.

A survey has been produced which we hope will be returned to allow the Bus Partnership to assess how the service is used and if any changes should be made.

Please look out for the survey that is being delivered and complete it—even if you don’t use the bus service. It is important that we get your feedback.

For more information on the No 7 Community Bus Partnership, please contact: cbp@ruralcc.org.uk

Unwanted downloads on your computer

- Beware when downloading software programs (even updates to existing ones like Adobe Flash Player, or Reader). The vendor may sneakily trick you into downloading other programs (toolbars, browsers, apps etc.) you didn’t want, by way of pre-ticked non-descript boxes you may easily overlook.

- This can happen at the start, but often happens after the download, when you run the downloaded installation or setup program.

- Before accepting the “Default” or “Most common” installation options, check what that includes.

- Vigilance is always required: Only download directly from the original vendor and check for options before the download and during the install.
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---
Sibson News

DCC Annual Church Meeting
Our Annual Church meeting will be held on Monday 27 March at 7:30pm in The Cock Inn, Sibson. All Welcome.

Flower Festival
We are having a Flower Festival in church on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th June. We require volunteers to flower arrange, bake cakes, serve refreshments, collect items and run tombola. Watch this space for more details next month.

Easter Lilies in Memoriam
If you wish to make a donation to the Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, please place your gift in an envelope with your name and the name of the loved one, and deliver it to Anne Bond at Vine Cottage, Sheepy Road, Sibson not later than 3 April. Thank you.

Save the date!
Family Race Night with Supper
Sibson Village Hall
Saturday 20th May 2017
Watch this space for further details

Photograph Competition
- You’ve heard of the Countryfile Calendar….. well here’s the chance to get your photographs published locally in the Sibson, Upton and Wellsborough 2018 calendar!
- We are looking for photographs of the countryside, flora and fauna (and no, that doesn’t include the residents!) taken in and around Sibson, Upton and Wellsborough throughout the year.
- Winning photographs will be published in the 2018 calendar which will be sold to raise funds for Sibson village hall and church
- Separate categories for Adults and Children, so kids get snapping too!
- Entry deadline: 1st October 2017
- Send your entries to alison@genysisconsultants.co.uk marked Sibson 2018 Calendar competition
- Please include name, contact details and age if under 16 years
- Any questions contact Alison on the above email address

Sibson Village Hall
Looking for somewhere to hold a regular group or event?
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Sibson Village Hall is a top facility to hire for any occasion, with a fully equipped kitchen, off road parking and a pleasant outdoor area.
Cost of hire:
Main and Small Hall plus kitchen and server area: £12 per hour
(as above but excluding Main Hall: £6.50 per hour)
We only charge for the time of the event, not the preparation time or cleaning up afterwards.
For further details, to check availability, and to book, please call Brian May on 01827 880511 or email sibsonvh@mail.com

Find us on @Sibson Parish Village Hall

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(£1 per column centimetre per issue, or £40 a half page)
**Twycross News**

**ST JAMES’ CHURCH**

**THE KITCHEN AND WC PROJECT**

We are delighted to announce that, after many years of effort and struggle, we have now raised sufficient funds to authorise commencement of work on installing a small kitchen and WC in St James’ Church.

How has this been achieved?

For over five years, the Church Council members have strived to raise money themselves through numerous events such as cake sales, musical items at the church, donations, Christmas fairs, harvest festivals, ride and stride etc. etc. And we have raised 25% of the funds needed.

But clearly we were never going to achieve this on our own. So after a year of grant applications, we owe many thanks to the following bodies:

- The National Churches Trust
- Leicester Diocese Capital fund
- Helen Jean Cope Trust
- Edith Murphy Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Jack Patson Trust
- Geo Ward Charitable Trust
- Florence Turner Trust
- J R Corah Foundation
- All Churches Trust

These bodies have very kindly donated varying amounts, from £500 to £10,000, to our small church in the middle of our small village at Twycross. Generosity and kindness of spirit indeed.

We have selected our contractors and hopefully work will commence in early March. In this year of 2017, we will achieve a major step forward for our church in Twycross. Watch out for future announcements re a “Grand opening”, when we hope many villagers, friends and helpers will come and look around the church and its new facilities.

*David Horobin, Twycross DCC.*

**49 CLUB WINNERS**

Maurice Holmes, James Borley, Denise Hughes and a spare number (it could have been you!)

Congratulations to all and thanks for your support.

If you would like to join, please call Audrey on 01827 880035.

Next subs are due 11 March 2017.

---

**STAGING /SHELVING WANTED!**

St. James’ Church is need of some storage in its bell tower. If you have any spare, please contact Audrey on 01827 880035.

---

**TWYCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL**

Pictured here, and looking deservedly proud, are four pupils who recently visited St James’ Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. From left to right:

Declan Cartwright, Samantha Borley, James Borley (all residents of Twycross) and Daniel Shakeshaft. Well done all!

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**TWYCROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Please see page 5 for a summary of news from the civil parish council, which covers Twycross, Orton and Norton Juxta Twycross.

(FUTURE OF NO7 BUS—SEE P11)

**‘30’ STICKERS FOR YOUR WHEELIE BIN**

Traffic speed through the village remains a problem, so Leicestershire Police have provided ‘30mph’ stickers to affix to wheelie bins to remind drivers of the speed limit.

If you live alongside the A444, Sheepy Road or Orton Lane, and feel that a sticker on your bin could be displayed in a prominent but safe position on Thursdays, I have a few more to distribute, so please contact me.

*Jayne 07887 505254*

---

**PLANT SALE—ADVANCE NOTICE**

Look out for the Twycross plant swap and plant sale in May. There will be drinks and cakes too! Would anyone be able to volunteer helping us grow seedlings?

Please contact Katie Hebbes, if interested.

Tel 01827 880 480 or katiehebbes@yahoo.co.uk
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We can design an ad for you or use your own artwork.
Contact the Editor, Helen Anderton
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We can design an ad for you or use your own artwork.
Contact the Editor, Helen Anderton
helenca@waitrose.com or 01827 714855
Goodbye Mrs Ward Lewis

After 15 years of teaching at Sheepy Magna CofE Primary School, Mrs Ward Lewis has said her farewells. She has left in order to pursue a career with the Diocese of Birmingham, working with the church schools that they look after.

She has touched the lives of so many people in our community and I know that everyone will have their own special memories. Each pupil and staff member contributed to her final assembly, which was well attended by current parents and governors. It was a lovely send-off and everyone worked very hard to create poems, songs, prayers, a rap, a film and a slideshow to remind us all of the times we have all shared. (See front cover)

Each class then presented Mrs Ward Lewis with a book filled with memories (a few samples here) and pictures—see back cover.

At her leaving assembly, Kian read a special prayer:

Lord God
Thank you for the extraordinary love, commitment and creativity our wonderful Headteacher has given this school
Thank you for the way she has served us and given out so much to the children we care for.
We pray for happiness and joy to be ahead of her, for wisdom and guidance to be beside her, and for grace and truth to be behind her, pushing Mrs Ward Lewis onwards into your goodness.
We pray that she would go on to find new treasures each day, and that the blessing of Christ would be upon all that she does, forevermore.

Amen

Alison Field, Deputy Headteacher

My memory was when we were at PGL when we were making rafts. She would not go on it, only a boat because she did not want to get wet.
I remember the first time I went to the office for good work, I was very happy.

By Katie

Dear Mrs Ward Lewis,
I am writing to tell you I will never forget the two Mrs Ward Lewis stickers you gave me.

Love from Tilly

Dear Mrs Ward Lewis,
I am writing to tell you that I will never forget all of the Mrs Ward Lewis stickers I got from you. And when it was my first birthday at school in sharing assembly and when we were singing the birthday song, I was a bit nervous.

Love from Isaac

Dear Mrs Ward Lewis,
I remember when you asked Freya for a high five and Freya slapped you really hard. One of my other favourite memories was when you dressed up as Velma from Scooby Doo because you looked exactly like her. I enjoyed it in Year 6 when you taught us about synonyms; it was one of the best lessons ever.

From Luke
Tickets for all events available from Sheepy Memorial Hall 07583 272624, the website (see above), or from Anji on 07837 370714.

**HALL BOOKINGS:**
Available for parties, family celebrations and funerals.

Only £11 per hour, or £8 per hour for long term bookings. Telephone or text us on 07583 272624, or look at our website for more details.

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

**NEW! Tai Chi:** Every Tuesday 12 noon til 1.30 pm. All comers welcome, just turn up. See box right.

**Sheepy Shed Brunch Club:** Every Wednesday 10.30am—Bacon and Coffee, Sausage and Tea, great chat and company.

**Sheepy Local History Society:** meetings 2nd Tuesday monthly, plus Research & Cataloguing last Monday monthly, 10-12 in 1st Flr Heritage Room sheepyhistory@btinternet.com

**Zumba with Bonnie:** 9:15am Wednesdays, £4 for one hour, 07973 743 217

**Ladies Group:** Sue Houghton, 3rd Wed eve monthly 01827 880517

**Didgeridoo Class:** with tutor Mark Harwood. Beginners welcome, no instrument required. 7:30pm 4th Weds of the month, £5.

**Bingo:** Turn up on the night, 3rd Friday monthly, doors open 6:30, eyes down 7pm

**Beadelicious:** Just turn up, last Friday monthly 7pm.

**Puppy School:** Sharron Byard 07977 538 751 email puppyschool@mail.com, website www.puppyschoolatherstone.co.uk

**Sheepy WI:** 4th Tuesday monthly 7:30-9:30pm - Jean Pritchett on 07776 298602

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Ian Pickford—a Freeman of the Goldsmith’s Society and Freeman of the City of London. He lectures at the Universities of London and Surrey, the V&A and the National Trust, and broadcasts on TV and radio
**Emergency Numbers**

If you find yourself housebound and in need, please ring one of these numbers for help:

**Sheepy:** Mrs Green 01827 880047 or Mrs Negus 01827 880645

**Ratcliffe:** Mrs Pratt 01827 714565

**Orton:** Mrs McKay 01827 880308

**Twycross:** vacant

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**Editor’s Notes**

You can see all the Gazette in full colour if you go to the Benefice website (www.sheepybenefice.org) and click on “Gazette” on the top tabs. If you have mislaid your copy and need a phone number or advertiser’s details, that’s the place to go.

A Gardener is wanted, Ad p12. Inevitably, as I contact advertisers to pay for another 12 months, a few decide not to renew (6 so far). We rely on advertising income to pay for printing the Gazette, so please mention us to any local tradespeople or businesses who might like to advertise—just put them in touch with me (details in Who’s Who above).

Please send news for the April edition to your village correspondent, as named above, by 12 March at the latest.

I’m happy to receive articles of local interest for publication—but I reserve the right, as editor, to publish or not and to shorten or edit as required. Many thanks HA
My memory of you is when we got some new fish for school. The Year 6 girls were letting them go into their new home. Connie was just there letting the water out! However, the fish were still in the bag! She had emptied the water, but not the fish! I was shouting to you but you were just casually talking away to a parent. We all shouted at you and you turned around, panicked and snatched the bag off Connie. Then you released the fish and said, “Not a good start, we nearly killed the fish!” We all started to laugh, even you laughed! We will miss you terribly, Mrs Ward Lewis! Good luck.

Love Darcy.

My memory of you is when I felt very sad and you helped me. I also remember when I had my first good work sticker. It was for Maths. I was in Portland and I showed you half of one hundred. Another time you helped me read my 12 chapter long book. Thank you for looking after me for my 6 years at Sheepy School.

Love Taylor.

Dear Mrs Ward — Lewis, Sr.

I am writing to tell you that you are the best teacher in the world. I will never forget you! I liked it when I went to gain a Mrs Ward Lewis sticker! So good maths! Will you come back?

Love from
Moya x x x x x x